

Widow of a British warpilot meets family of his savers.

Crown on the search
from our correspondent

Aalten. Nearly five years took the search but after all, time and effort that was put in, payed of. JP succeeded to find Maureen Kay (82) widow of the allies airman Roy Kay.

Yesterday afternoon after 72 years after the fatal crash, she came for an emotional acquaintance to the museum in Aalten in the Gelderse Achterhoek.

JP, a jeweller from Ede, got interested, because of the heroic story of the Lancaster that was shot down in the night of june 16 to 17 1944 after a raid on Germany.

Two airman managed to bail out. Lesley Pulfrey did not survive; in the small hamlet of Barlo a small memorial has been raised. Roy Kay was collected by the resistance and brought to a hiding place.

That was under the inspiring leadership of "uncle" Jan (John) Wikkerink THE big resistance heroe in the Achterhoek. JP is married to his granddaughter Gesina which explains his fascination.

When my mother in law Jo, moved to a nursing home, back in 2012 I discovered a small piece of silk. She told it was the remains of a parachute. The name Roy Kay was on. Tyhe erst of the parachute was used to make a weddingdress, cribdress, and christening gown where up to grandgrandchildren are baptized in. This piece now is in the Aaltense Musea.

Big lines.

For P the trigger to dive into this story: "I heard the story before, but without knowing the details." After almost five years of investigations, looking around in archives, making phonecalls, he finally ended up with Mrs Kay in London. With all thanks to Peter Rhebergen who earlier already invewtigated this 550 Squadron. The widow was thankfull. Up untill his death in 2009 she had never known what happened exactly. She even asked if she could send his decorations, because they belonged to the museum. Yesterday, the widow, with a stepson- and duaghter and a step grandson came to the Achterhoek. But also a granddaughter of het man (Alex Wissink) who organised the hiding of the British airman for 40 days in the Hague came over from the United States with her son.

Not only the museum was payed a visit to, also the graves and memorial of those who did not survive were visited.

The jeweller looks back on a day that has been better than thought before: the Kay family enjoyed very much about what was organised for them.

This made the five years of investigations worth while.

Subscription to the foto: widow of the british airman Roy Kay, (4th from left) meets the granddaughters of "uncle Jan " Wikkerink who helped hiding the airman, Riek (left) and Gesina (second from left), second from right JP.

Also on this picture: Marika Wissink (3d from left) from the United States and her son, next to her, Henk Wissink, (nephew to Alex Wissink) and gerda Brethouwer (in yellow, as the museumdirector and Mrs Baanders the conservator)